

U.S. Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano

34th District California

Report to the Community

Summer 2001

34th Dist. Budget Requests Total 51 million

❑ Requests reflect community priorities

With the Appropriations process now in full swing, Congresswoman Napolitano, has submitted personal requests for federal funding totaling approximately \$51 million to meet the priority needs of her district. In addition she has joined other area members in requesting \$ 77 million for projects and programs that overlap several congressional districts. (A complete list of projects appears on page 2). As part of this annual process, 34th district city and LA County officials, as well as groups like the Gateway Cities and San Gabriel Valley Councils of Government, Foothills Transit, the Alameda East Construction Authority, the Metropolitan Transit Operators Coalition and I-5 Consortium have trekked to Washington to make their needs known to Congress.

Many of the local funding requests are related to better public transit, road improvements, and the reduction of air pollutants. Other requests involve the construction of public facilities,



(Left:) Rep. Napolitano with Minority Leader Rep. Richard Gephardt discussing the radio address (Right:) Delivering the Hispanic response to President Bush's weekly radio address in Spanish



including a new Whittier Police Facility, (\$10 million) various senior centers and affordable housing projects in Santa Fe Springs and Pico Rivera, and a youth learning/recreation facility in La Puente. Improvements and expansions to community parks and recreation

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❑ Assignments reflect increased clout

Recognizing her emerging leadership on several important issues, the House Democratic Steering Committee has given Congresswoman Napolitano a coveted seat on the important House International Relations Committee. There she will serve on the Subcommittee's on Western Hemisphere and International Operations/Human Rights.

The Congresswoman has met with the President of Mexico Vicente Fox, both in Los Angeles and Mexico City. She has used her position to strongly advocate on behalf of district and bilateral interests including airplane manufacturing at our local Boeing plant for an expected multi-million dollar order for Mexicana and AeroMex airlines, immigration, trade and environmental issues.

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Oil painting by student artist Gregory Anguiano on display in the U.S. Capitol (story inside)

Helping the Community

A Summary of requests from 34th District cities.

District Wide:

- Continuation of Latina Adolescent Mental Health project in Southeast LA County - \$1 million
- Soil Aquafer Research Project - \$1 million

La Puente:

- Youth Learning Center – \$1.5 million

Montebello:

- Replacement of Playground equipment – \$800,000
- Senior center expansion/art center - \$1.5 million
- Aquatic Center renovations - \$1.5 million
- Skate Park - \$370,000
- Ballfield lighting - \$435,000
- Montebello Loop (recycled water) - \$2 million

Norwalk:

- Reservoir project – \$1.2 million
- Flood Control Program — \$450,000
- Environmental Infrastructure Program - \$300,000
- Aquatic Center renovations - \$1 million

Pico Rivera:

- Bike Route Improvements - \$100,000
- Senior center expansion - \$750,000
- Sewer System upgrades - \$600,000
- Roesemead Blvd/Hwy. 19 improvements - \$4.8 million
- Riviera Rd. Soundwall - \$500,000

Santa Fe Springs:

- Affordable District Housing - \$5 million
- Double Decker Bus Replacement - \$500,000
- Replacement of Lakeview Park Rec Bldg.- \$500,000
- Street improvements - \$1.32 million
- Park expansion \$1.2 million

Whittier:

- Water/Sewer upgrades - \$1.7 million
- Oil field townsite cleanup - \$1 million
- Small flood control project - \$375,000
- New Police Facility - \$10 million
- New Library Facility - \$10 million
- Greenway Trails Bike Route - \$3 million



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dear Friends:

God Bless America! As we celebrate the 225th Anniversary of our great Republic this 4th of July, it is a good time to reflect upon the many sacrifices and contributions made by each and every generation that has made the United States the greatest democracy in the annals of history.

In this Summer Issue, you will note the outstanding women recognized by community service organizations and churches from throughout our 34th district. They epitomize the volunteer public spirit that contributes so much to the betterment of our society. All are deserving of our deep appreciation, respect and admiration.

As the 107th Congress moves forward, now with a new Senate majority, we have exciting opportunities to enact meaningful legislation on many important issues including the Patient's Bill of Rights, HMO reform, Social Security and Medicare, energy, the environment and education.

In order to serve you better, please be sure to complete the opinion survey on Page 7 and mail it back to us. Also, note our new District Office address and phone numbers on Page 3. As ever, we appreciate hearing from you and the opportunity to serve you.

Wishing you a happy summer season.

Warmest regards,



At the press triangle: Congresswoman Napolitano, pictured with her colleagues from the California delegation participating in a press conference, following a meeting with Vice President Cheney regarding California's Energy Crisis. (Story on page 3)

Napolitano's Environmental and Energy Agenda

❑ Fighting to keep the lights on:

Californians are bracing for a difficult, hot summer filled with countless hours of scattered electrical blackouts due to the current energy crisis. Wholesale electricity prices have shot up 1,000 percent in the past year, while California's demand for energy grew by only 4 percent. The unseemly profits of Texas energy companies from price gouging have risen by 500 percent or more.

The federal government, through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has the ability to help alleviate the economic catastrophe by imposing a temporary cost-based price cap on the wholesale price of energy. Although FERC has enforced cost-based rates many times in the past, President Bush remains adamantly opposed to any temporary price caps for the western states.

At a crucial meeting with the Vice President requested by both Democrats and Republicans in the California Congressional Delegation, The Vice President refused to consider any of the reasonable bipartisan proposals put forward by the California members. He stated that while the Republican Administration was sympathetic and would monitor the situation, California was on its own, and could expect no additional help from the federal government.

Despite these obstacles Congresswoman Napolitano continues to work closely with her California colleagues in Congress to persuade the administration and FERC to implement reasonable solutions to sustain a healthy economy in California and our nation. As the California economy goes, so goes the nation.



Napolitano joins Congressman Calvert at a press conference to introduce H.R. 1985, the California Water Security Act of 2001.

❑ Protecting our resources:

Congresswoman Napolitano joined her colleagues in the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee to explore ways in which the federal government can help our nation's energy woes. The Subcommittee has already held a handful of hearings to evaluate the quantity of oil, coal, and natural gas supplies available on public land, as well as benefits for the federal government to encourage the production of renewable energy resources such as geothermal energy.

The Congresswoman introduced a bill to authorize a comprehensive water program for California with Congressman Ken Calvert, Chairman of the House Water and Power Subcommittee. H.R. 1985, the Western Water Security Act addresses California's water needs by increasing federal investment in various projects such as water recycling, and reclamation. As California's population grows to over 45 million people in the next 20 years, the state is required to reduce its reliance on water from the Colorado River.

The Congress members recently held a regional hearing in the City of Cerritos to take testimony from Southern California water agencies, municipalities, labor organizations and environmentalists on how California, as the world's sixth largest economy, can continue to ensure a reliable water supply while balancing the needs of our environment.

Napolitano is also maintaining her leadership role in the cleanup and removal of the 10.5 million ton uranium waste pile leeching 57,000 gallons of radioactive waste per day into the Colorado River. She will work with her colleagues to earmark funds to cleanup the site.

We've moved our offices !

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Napolitano Opens High Tech Training Program

Praising the benefits of regional collaboration, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano was delighted to kick off the \$2.8 million “Technical Skills Training Program” at Cerritos College last March 30. Napolitano facilitated the grant process by encouraging the Gateway Cities Partnership consortium to apply for the Labor Department funds, and making sure federal officials were aware of the region’s unique situation.

The Congresswoman has been at the forefront of efforts to bring better-paying, high-skilled jobs to the 34th district area, noting to federal officials that the region had never fully benefited from the economic revitalization seen in other areas of the state. Manufacturing job loss from the demise of defense and aerospace, particularly the closure of the Northrop Grumman facility in Pico Rivera, have had a major negative impact on the region’s employment.

It is anticipated that the program will train workers for jobs in the high-wage, high tech industry, specifically machinists and computer numerical control programmer specialists. 800-1,500 workers or more, are expected to be trained or have their skills upgraded in two years or less as part of this innovative program.



Rep. Napolitano kicks off the opening of the 2.8 million “Technical Skills Training Program” at Cerritos College in Norwalk

JROTC Competitors Receive Recognition



Rep. Napolitano with Gen. Paul Monroe (CA Army Natl. Guard), and Lt. Col. Nicole Plourde, USAF at the presentation of awards

Congresswoman Napolitano recently attended the Annual Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Drill Competition held in Rep. Jane Harman’s (D-El Segundo) district. The Members of Congress along with the planning board and Redondo Beach High School helped organize the competition which included participants from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Air National Guard, Army National Guard and Navy Seals, as well as many schools with JROTC programs.

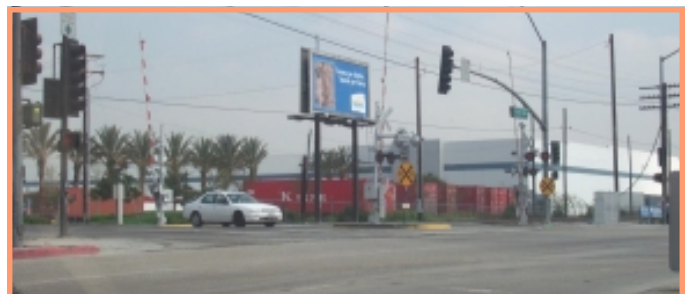
Grace recognizes the work and discipline required of the competitors, many of whom have spent months in preparation for this event. She is working to encourage even more schools in the 34th district to participate in next year’s competition.

Improving Railroad Crossings

One-third of international trade coming into the United States flows through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. By the year 2020 the amount of goods entering the ports is expected to triple. This will cause the number of freight trains transiting the 34th Congressional District to increase by 60 percent during the next 20 years.

To improve safety along the tracks and minimize vehicle congestion on nearby streets, Congresswoman Napolitano has been working with state legislators and local governments to ensure funding is available for railroad crossing improvements in the district. An extensive study has been completed by Kolve/Bechtel Engineers to assess what kind of improvements need to be made at the Alameda Corridor East (ACE) railroad crossings. There are two types of safety

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One of the many railroad crossings in the Alameda Corridor East slated for safety improvements

Women of the Year Honored at Luncheon

Congresswoman Napolitano recognized 42 women from the 34th District at the “2001 Women of the Year Recognition Luncheon” held in observance of Women’s History Month. The honorees were named by local service organizations and were selected by their peers for their exemplary volunteer services to our communities. Montebello Mayor Mary Ann Saucedo made welcoming remarks; Teresa Samaniago, from ABC 7 News was the Keynote Speaker and Stephanie Risser of the Florence Avenue Foursquare Church gave the invocation. The Pioneer High School JROTC presented the colors and flag salute. Chuck Fuentes, the Congresswoman’s Chief of Staff was Master of Ceremonies.

2001 Women of the Year Recipients

Bernice Adame, Knights of Columbus Council #3678; **Sandy Alderman**, Emerald Star #143 O.E.S.; **Linda Andrews**, La Puente Senior Center; **Lizet Angulo**, St. Bartholomew’s Church, Pico Rivera; **Ardith Montelius**, First Baptist Church of Norwalk; **Ernstine Bernal**, St. Pius X Catholic Church; **Vivian Brunken**, Friends of the Johnson-Hargitt House Museum; **Martha Campbell**, YWCA Wings; **Elia Chacon**, Iglesia Jesus Es Amor; **Yumi Choi**, Pioneer High School JROTC; **Joyce Christian**, Soroptimist Int. of Santa Fe Springs; **Veronica Diaz**, Soroptist International of Montebello; **Estella Estrada**, Montebello Senior Friendship Club; **Anita Fowler**, Montebello Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene; **Mary Gomez**, Retired of Senior Volunteer Program; **Margaret Gracie**, Norwalk Presbyterian Church; **Mary Hanson**, Friends of the Whittier Hills Assoc.; **Martha House**, Greater La Puente Meals on Wheels; **Ophelia Jaurez**, Lulac Norwalk Council #2043; **Sara Jurich**, Happy Years; **Vivian Kimbrough**, Pio Pico Womens Club; **Carmel Ling**, YMCA of Greater Whittier; **Hilda Lopez**, Jolly Senior Club; **Marieta**



Pictured with Grace are Recipients from the Host City of Montebello along with Councilwomen Kathy Salazar and Norma Lopez-Reid and City Treasurer Gerri Guzman

Lovie, Southland Art Association; **Helen Manookian**, Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral; **Sylvia Marquez**, St. Louis Of France Church; **Kim Matsumoto**, Southeast Japanese School & Comm. Center; **Maliva McLaughlin**, Norwalk’s Woman’s Club; **Marvel Miller**, Montebello Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene; **Mariea Moldoveanu**, Community Employment Project; **Elsie Mottola**, Montebello-ELA Breakfast Club; **Charlene Rasmussen**, West Covina Emblem Club; **Carmen Reyes**, Edward R. Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology.; **Marcia Reynolds**, St. John Vianney Catholic Church; **Leticia Rodriguez**, Garfield High School Jr. ROTC; **Dolores Ruiz**, Spirit Family Services; **Nayana Sanghavi**, The Gujarati/ Radha Kirsna Temple; **Connie Solis**, Pico Rivera History & Heritage Society; **Gusta Vicuna**, Good Neighbor Senior Club; **Maxine Wittig**, Norwalk Masonic Lodge #315; **The Women of the Braille Workers at Faith Lutheran Church**, Faith Lutheran Church & School; **Womens Church Section**, St. Mary Macedonian Orthodox Church.

2001 Artistic Discovery Congressional Art Contest



Winners (l-r) Mark Pagdilao, Nogales High, La Puente, 2nd Place; Gregory Anguiano, Frontier High, Whittier, 1st Place; Grace Viet Nguyen, El Rancho High, Pico Rivera, 3rd Place.

The 20th Annual Congressional Student Art Contest, “An Artistic Discovery” awards presentation and gallery exhibit was held this Spring and held at the City of Norwalk’s Mary Paxon Gallery. Over 70 student artists from nine high schools within the 34th district participated in the 2001 contest.

Participating high schools included Armenian Mesrobian, Bishop Amat, El Rancho, Frontier, Montebello, Nogales, Schurr and Vail. All student artists received certificates of congressional recognition with major awards including Best in Theme 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Ribbons, Judges Awards and Honorable Mentions.

The 1st Place winning entry by Gregory Anguiano of Frontier High School in Whittier will be on display for one year at the U.S. Capitol along with other winning entries from across the country.

Committee assignments

(continued from page 1)



Congresswoman Napolitano meets with President Vicente Fox in Mexico City where she urged him to order planes from Boeing - Long Beach during a recent congressional delegation visit.

Furthering her quest to provide trade opportunities for small businesses located in the 34th District and the region, Napolitano traveled with a delegation headed by Rep. David Dreier to Hong Kong and Tokyo to discuss high-tech policies and export promotion with top government officials.

Napolitano has also retained her seat on the Resources Committee where she moves up in seniority on the important Subcommittee on Water and Power. She has led the effort to provide clean-up of radioactive contamination on the Colorado River (see related story on Page 3). Rounding out her assignment is a seat on the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, an assignment extremely important to the 34th District, in light of the California energy crisis.

She will also continue to serve on the Small Business Committee, where she has long championed small business as the engine that drives the California and U.S. economy. Her agenda demands better access to federal government contracts and ensuring more dollars – not less – for SBA programs, particularly those that help women and minority-owned small businesses succeed.

34th district funding

(continued from page 1)

facilities are also priorities.

The Congresswoman is supporting requests from the cities of Norwalk and Montebello for major repairs and enhancements to their old aquatic centers. These improvements and repairs will bring the swim facilities up to current standards so their residents – particularly children — are safe.

Flood control and water/sewer infrastructure projects in Whittier, Pico Rivera, and Norwalk are also high on the list. Old systems need to be replaced or repaired to meet current and projected population growth that already overload the capacity of these systems and to help minimize the damage and public health hazards resulting from any future earthquakes. She also supports the cleanup and redevelopment of the contaminated property within the ‘Oilfield Townsite’ property of Santa Fe Springs. The project merits federal assistance.

The Congresswoman plans to actively solicit support to ensure the continuation of the school-based Latina Adolescent mental health program in Southeast LA County. This new program focused on suicide prevention was funded for the first time in last year’s budget at her request. She is seeking \$1 million for continuation and expansion of this program.

Congresswoman Napolitano will expend the considerable time and effort needed to make the case for important projects and programs she supports for her constituents in the 34th district.

Railroad improvements

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improvements being used along the ACE. The first type of safety improvement is a grade separation where the roadway either crosses over or under the railroad tracks, and costs about \$40 million. The second type is the “Jump Start.” This program improves safety by installing more visible warning signs, warning horns and raised medians, which are designed to prevent automobiles from driving around crossing gates, and costs about \$29 million.

The ACE Construction Authority has proposed that grade separations be constructed at the intersections of Sunset Ave., Valley Blvd. (City of Industry), and Montebello Blvd., (Montebello). They have also identified 10 railroad crossings that will be part of “Jump Start.”

Congresswoman Napolitano joined the Gateway Cities Council of Governments in pushing the Construction Authority to provide additional funding for grade separations in Pico Rivera and Santa Fe Springs. This resulted in \$19.2 million approved for grade separations on Passons Blvd. in Pico Rivera and Valley View Ave. in Santa Fe Springs.



Congresswoman Napolitano, along with her colleagues Rep. Ken Calvert and Rep. Hilda Solis, listens to testimony at a Resources Subcommittee Field Hearing on the security of California water

Constituent Survey - Rep. Napolitano wants to hear from you**Yes/No**Is the enactment of a prescription drug plan for seniors a high priority for you or a member of your family? ☐ ☐Do you support any part of Social Security being privatized allowing individual retirement investments? ☐ ☐Do you support school vouchers for funding of tuition at private or religious schools? ☐ ☐Do you believe that public schools have had some success in raising student achievement in the last 5 years? ☐ ☐Should California Representatives be limited to a set number of 2-year terms in Congress? ☐ ☐
If yes, how many 2-year terms should they serve? a.) 3 terms_____ b.) 4 terms_____ c.) other _____Do you support temporary price caps on out-of-state based energy suppliers? ☐ ☐Do you think that the Bush Administration's refusal to consider any reasonable measures, including temporary price caps, to help alleviate our energy crisis is political punishment against California? ☐ ☐Given the state's energy crisis, should we reconsider nuclear power plants? ☐ ☐Would you support the building of a new, modern, environmentally safe, power plant in your city? ☐ ☐Should we continue to encourage international trade with countries like China even if there has been criticism for human rights abuses and the lack of religious freedom? ☐ ☐From the list below, put a check mark in front of **three** issues that are most important to you.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy crisis (electricity/gas) | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Community mental health services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improving public schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Freeways/road improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> HMO Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better public transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Economy/job layoffs | <input type="checkbox"/> Air/water pollution |

Comments:*fold here and make panel below face outward*

e-mail address: _____

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Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano
1609 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515



Congresswoman Napolitano and Santa Fe Springs Mayor Betty Putnam completing an inspection of the city's 17 year old double-decker bus

Clean Fuel Bus A Big Plus!

Hoping to keep the city's clean fuel double-decker bus rolling, Santa Fe Springs Mayor Betty Putnam and the City Council are working closely with Congresswoman Napolitano to secure federal funding for a replacement.

The current bus is 17 years old and has fallen into disrepair. With the capacity of two regular buses, the double-decker has transported senior citizen groups, community organizations and school children on countless recreational and cultural enrichment excursions.

Providing such needed services has earned Santa Fe Springs the coveted "All America City Award." A new clean fuel bus will benefit the community for many years to come.

Armenian Patriarch visits U.S. Capitol

Congresswoman Napolitano joined her colleagues in the Armenian Caucus in welcoming His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, to the U.S. Capitol. Napolitano was a co-sponsor of a House Resolution commemorating the 1700th anniversary of the acceptance of Christianity in Armenia and welcoming the Supreme Patriarch on his visit to the United States.

Napolitano is very supportive of the Armenian community and has had a number of students from the Armenian Mesrobian School intern in her Montebello office. The 34th Congressional district is home to the second largest Armenian community in the country.



Rep. Grace F. Napolitano welcomes His Holiness Karekin II, on his visit to the U.S.



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M.C.

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